

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

The following amendments do not constitute an admission regarding the patentability of the amended subject matter and should not be so construed. Amendments to the claims were made for purposes of more clearly stating the claimed subject matter and do not add new matter or alter the scope of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a passive call block assistant configured to send a false ringing indication to a caller; and
a call manager configured to identify caller identification information.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2¹, wherein the call manager is configured to match the caller identification information with an entry in a caller database.

4. (Original) A method comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;
sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call after being prompted.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

10. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

13. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database;

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

Claims 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

al 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

22. (Original) A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:

match caller identification information with an entry in a caller database;

send a false ringing indication to a caller when the caller identification information matches the entry in the caller database.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, the instructions further comprising:

accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, the instructions further comprising:

prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

a1 25. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the instructions further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the instructions further comprising:

sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call after being prompted.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, the instructions further comprising:

responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, the instructions further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:

match caller identification information with an entry in a caller database;

accept a call when the caller identification information matches the entry in the caller database;

a) sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

32. (Cancelled) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, the instructions further comprising:

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, the instructions further comprising:

prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, the instructions further comprising:

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

35. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, the instructions further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the instructions further comprising:

a) responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the instructions further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

40. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

means for accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

means for prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

means for accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

means for sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call after being prompted.

al 45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

means for responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

means for receiving a SIP Cancel.

49. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

means for accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:

means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:

means for prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:

means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

as 53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:

means for accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

means for responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

means for receiving a SIP Cancel.

58. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a call from a caller;

a processor configured to send a false ringing indication to the caller.

59. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database;

prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database;

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

64. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

65. (New) A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:

receive a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

accept the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database;

prompt a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database;

sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

66. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 65, the instructions further comprising:

accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

at 67. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 65, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

68. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 65, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

69. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67, the instructions further comprising:

responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

70. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67, the instructions further comprising:

receiving a SIP Cancel.

71. (New) A apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;

means for accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller database;

means for prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller database;

means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after being prompted.

72. (New) The apparatus of claim 71, further comprising:

means for accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

73. (New) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

74. (New) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.

75. (New) The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:

means for responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.

76. (New) The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:

means for receiving a SIP Cancel.
